

INCOMING

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISIONDECLASSIFIED BY:
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH

PRIORITY

DATE 3 December 1980

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FROM: USNMR SHAPE PARIS FRANCE

TO : CHAIRMAN JCS WASH DC

INFO: DEPTSTATE (PROTECTED)
EMB BONN
EMB LONDON

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or their representatives.

NR : ALO 290

031140Z FEB 59

NOFORN/PERSONAL FOR GEN TWINING FROM GEN NORSTAD

Reference USCOB 193 to CINCUSAREUR, Berlin Tel 137 to State.

Unless the 4 U.S. trucks stopped by Soviets at East-West German border check point (Marienborn-Helmstedt) yesterday are released within next 24 hours for onward journey across the border to West Germany, I strongly recommend that the matter be taken up at once and in vigorous terms with Soviet authorities at high political level (e.g., by Ambassador Thompson with Soviet Foreign Minister). I can only speculate as to the particular Soviet motivation, if any, in holding up at this time these vehicles which are reported to be open at the rear so that contents (jeeps) are plainly visible. Whatever may be the reason, it seems to me that, particularly at this time, it should be made unmistakably clear to the highest Soviet authorities without further delay that we view our communications with Berlin as a matter of major importance and insist upon the right of unimpaired access to and from that city. Protests already made at the local levels (that is, checkpoint, Heidelberg and Berlin) have been unproductive thus far. Prior to considering what local military measures might be necessary to free the convoy to proceed across the border, I believe that immediate action at Washington-Moscow level would be the most effective way to impress the Soviets with the seriousness we attach to this unwarranted interference with our rights and would add to the public understanding of the issue involved, thus strengthening foundation of public support.

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AFHQ FORM 22 JUN 58 0-309

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9172 Berlin 19010 (59)
RG 218

OUTGOING

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION

JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH

DATE *3 December 1980*

NR : ALO 290 fr USNMR SHAPE PARIS FRANCE (cont'd)

The reference in USCOB 193 to detention of British vehicle may be inaccurate. All British sources indicate that there was only a temporary stop to correct documentation which was not in proper condition, and no protest was involved.

The substance of this message is being passed to State through the channels of that Department. However, in view of possible delays in that means of communication and the fact that Secretary of State leaves today for London, request you forward copy of this message to Mr. Dulles as early as possible.

NOTE : Do not deliver before 0800 Wash Time.
193 and 137 are not identified in SMD.

ACTION CHANGED TO JCS (3 Feb 59)

ACTION: OJCS

INFO : ARMY, NAVY, CMC, CSAF (XPD), XDC, OSD, OSD (SDLU)

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